CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1. In at least one electronic device, a method of sharing data between a first computer aided design (CAD) application and a second CAD application, comprising:

the first CAD application storing the data in the form of feature information and feature history relating to a modeled object;

providing the second CAD application with access to the feature information and

10   feature history stored by the first CAD application; and

the second CAD application reading the feature information and the feature history stored by the first CAD application, such that the second application can at least one of one of evaluate, recreate, regenerate, and model the modeled object, the feature information, and the feature history.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein storing comprises placing native data and a sub-set of native data on a recordable medium.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sub-set of native data results from processing the

20   native data with at least one routine from a first library of executable routines to derive the sub-set of native data.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first library of executable routines is embedded within the first CAD program.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the first library of executable routines is a component accessible by the first CAD program.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein providing access comprises providing a plug-in

30   having an application program interface (API) and being accessible by the second CAD application, and conveying at least one of the feature information and the feature history to the plug-in.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein native data and a sub-set of native data form the feature information and the feature history.

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8. In at least one electronic device, a method of sharing data between a first computer aided design (CAD) application and a second CAD application, comprising:

the second CAD application gaining access to the data relating to feature information and feature history relating to a modeled object; and

10   the second CAD application reading the feature information and the feature history stored by the first CAD application, such that the second application can at least one of one of evaluate, recreate, regenerate, and model the modeled object, the feature information, and the feature history.

15   9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the first CAD application placing native data and a sub-set of native data on a recordable medium.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the sub-set of native data results from processing the native data with at least one routine from a first library of executable routines to

20   derive the sub-set of native data.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first library of executable routines is one of embedded within the first CAD program and a component accessible by the first CAD program.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein a plug-in has an application program interface (API) suitable for communicating with the first CAD application and conveying at least one of the feature information and the feature history to the plug-in.

30   13. The method of claim 12, wherein native data and a sub-set of native data form the feature information and the feature history.

14. A system for modeling an object, comprising:

a first CAD application;

a second CAD application;

5   feature information and feature history relating to an object modeled on the first

CAD application stored in a first memory store;

a plug-in accessible by the second CAD application and suitable for accessing

and retrieving the feature information and feature history to enable the second CAD

application to create a second model of at least a portion of the object modeled on the

10   first CAD application and be able to evaluate and manipulate the feature information and

feature history without the first CAD application having to export a file containing the

object.

15. In at least one electronic device, a method of communicating between a first

15   application and a second application, comprising:

generating feature information and feature history as an object is modeled in the

first application;

storing the feature information and feature history; and

utilizing an application program interface (API) to retrieve the feature

20   information and feature history and convey the feature information and feature history to

the second application.

16. A computer readable medium containing software suitable for executing a method

of sharing data between a first computer aided design (CAD) application and a second

25   CAD application, the method comprising:

the first CAD application storing the data in the form of feature information and

feature history relating to a modeled object;

providing the second CAD application with access to the feature information and

feature history stored by the first CAD application; and

30   the second CAD application reading the feature information and the feature

history stored by the first CAD application, such that the second application can at least

one of one of evaluate, recreate, regenerate, and model the modeled object, the feature information, and the feature history.

17. A computer readable medium containing software suitable for executing a method of sharing data between a first computer aided design (CAD) application and a second CAD application, the method comprising:

the second CAD application gaining access to the data relating to feature information and feature history relating to a modeled object; and

the second CAD application reading the feature information and the feature history stored by the first CAD application, such that the second application can at least one of one of evaluate, recreate, regenerate, and model the modeled object, the feature information, and the feature history.

18. A computer readable medium containing software suitable for executing a method of communicating between a first application and a second application, the method comprising:

generating feature information and feature history as an object is modeled in the first application;

storing the feature information and feature history; and

utilizing an application program interface (API) to retrieve the feature information and feature history and convey the feature information and feature history to the second application.